

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Monday, April 7, 2025
Selectmen's Minutes – 6:00 pm

Selectboard: Chairman, James Cleary, Tony Parisi, Travis McClure

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

Public: None

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Appointments:

6:00 – Girl Scout Troop - #20889 Presentation – Girl Scout Troop #20889 came before the Selectmen and presented their program “Operation Plant”. They are earning their Bronze Award and have asked the Selectmen for permission to plant a flower garden on the side of the VFW. The location was discussed and it was approved.

Selectmen thanked the Troop for their presentation.

Chairman Cleary made a motion to accept the proposal from Girl Scout Troop #20889 to install and care for a flower garden at the VFW. 2nd by Selectmen Parisi & McClure. Motion passed 3-0.

Plan Learn Activity Nature Teamwork

6:15– Melissa Clark – Rhubarb Festival, and ZBA – Melissa opened by discussing the progress that has been made on the Rhubarb Festival.

- **Marking out vendor spots** - Melissa asked if the field could be accessed and also if Selectman Parisi could help mark out where things will be on Thursday after 7:30 pm. Selectman Parisi said he would be available, Melissa asked if DJ would also be available. That is a question for DJ.
- **Tables** - The road crew will be able to get 10-12 tables down to the field.
- **Time Frame of event** - Melissa would like the field to be available for the Rhubarb Festival until 4:30, Selectmen approved this request.
- **Fire Department & Parking** – Melissa stated if the Fire Department has a call they will not be available, she is working on a back-up.

- **Bands** – The bands will have to be a separate function. It was too confusing last year and the bands are not part of the Rhubarb Festivities. If Tom James would like to have food vendors, Tom will have to be arranged separately. Melissa asked about funds for the Rhubarb Festival and the band, she asked if they were separate. Deb will provide Melissa the breakdown tomorrow as to how much exactly went to the Rhubarb Festival vs. bands.

ZBA – Melissa discussed the hearing for Shelly Nelkins, Shelly will be stopping into the office to get help with the abutter list. Melissa asked about appointments for the ZBA, at this time Selectman Parisi will be the alternate, the Selectboard is not in a rush to appoint anyone. They would like to reach out to some who have shown interest in the ZBA position before making any decisions.

Easter Festivities – There is an Easter Egg hunt and photo opportunity with the Easter bunny scheduled for Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 10:00 am, the event will take place at Newhall Field.

Minutes: March 24, 2025 Minutes were accepted as written

Financial: A/P & Payroll Manifests were signed

Signatures:

- **Intent to excavate** – 3 intents were signed
- **VFW Rental** – April 17, 2025 Conservation Commission, Earth Day Event
- **Contract** – Antrim/Bennington Police Contract was signed
- **Contract** – Antrim/Bennington Rescue Contract was signed
- **Fire Dept.** – Payroll Policy was signed

Other:

- **Second Wind** – A quote from Second Wind to re-bed the lead carbon tank was reviewed and signed. This is for 45 Durgin Rd., discussion followed. This landfill closure is 30 years old, it is nearing the end of the closure cycle. Selectman Parisi recused himself from signing this quote, citing a conflict of interest due to his profession. Selectman McClure and Chairman Cleary signed the quote.

- **Library Trustee Appointment** – D. McKenzie, R. Davie were approved, Town Clerk, Deb Belcher will be provided the information.
- **Highway Department** – Selectmen discussed the backhoe, summer projects, vehicle maintenance and more. Selectmen would like Road Agent, DJ Wing to come to the next meeting for a monthly update, further asking that he have a schedule for his plans for the next two months prepared, as well as being prepared to discuss winter maintenance, vehicle maintenance on Fire, Police and Highway equipment.
- **Police Schedule** – Selectmen reviewed a schedule that was provided by Chief Sullivan
- **Minahan Jackets** – Discussion followed asking if Selectmen would support Ms. Minahan purchasing her jackets the Town purchased for her. Selectmen were not supportive of this.
- **Trees at Sawyer Field** – Don Trow will start taking down some trees at Sawyer Field next week. Selectmen have gone over what is expected with Mr. Trow, he is aware of the goal and will keep in mind the removal of trees is for additional parking. Removal of the stumps was discussed, this will be discussed with DJ, the use of a ripper will make pulling the stumps much easier.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm. The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator